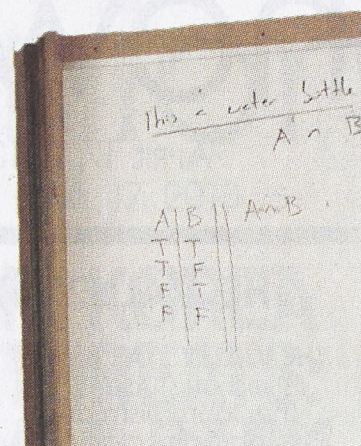


PHILOSOPHY LECTURE SERIES CONTINUE AT VALLEY

SEE PAGE 4



lavalleystar.com

April 17, 2013

Volume 78 Issue 5

BOSTON BOMBINGS REACH VALLEY COLLEGE

Monday Mornings Boston bombings have an impact on Valley College community.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

President Barack Obama said Tuesday that the explosions near the finish line of the Boston Marathon two days ago have raised alarms that terrorists might have struck again in the United States.

The double blasts occurred late Monday morning, EST, killing at least three people and injuring more than 170 in a bloody scene of shattered glass and severed limbs.

"Right now, it would benefit everyone if we continued on with the investigation to get a little bit more evidence of what really took place and who is responsible," said political science instructor Anthony O'Reagan. "Frankly, I think that is irresponsible for people to jump to conclusions about who was involved; let me just remind people about the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995."

As runners crossed the finish line of the annual Boston Marathon, two bombs detonated releasing pellets and sharp "nail-like" objects designed to maim their victims.

"It's really sad," said Liana Avetisyan, a Valley College art major. "A lot of kids were there. People were there to see friends and family race. Whoever is responsible should be punished."

In a New York Times article, representative Michael McCaul, a Texas Republican who heads the House Homeland Security Committee, said authorities believe the explosive may have been a "pressure-cooker device," similar to improvised explosive weapons that have been used against American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The article also stated a similar device was also used in the failed bombing of Times Square New York in 2010.

Martin Richard, an 8-year-old boy from Dorchester, Massachusetts and Krystle M. Campbell, a 29-year-old from Medford, Mass. are the only known fatalities. Authorities have yet to release the name of the other victim or those of the 170 injuries.

The authorities have not announced any arrests, and so far, no one has claimed responsibility as the police conduct what they have said is "a criminal investigation that is a potential terrorist investigation."

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Registration for summer session is now available. The list of class scheduals is available at www.lavc.edu



SMOKE NO MORE - Workers on a cherry picker place the sign in front of the student services building, alerting the community Valley College is a smoke free environment.

ERIKA SUPLECJOVA | VALLEY STAR

SMOKING AT VALLEY COULD LEAD TO EXPULSION

Starting next fall semester Valley College will be implementing its new smoking policies.

LEILANI PELTZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Students who fail to follow the new smoking policy at Valley College could face serious consequences—the most severe being expulsion.

Beginning Fall 2013, Valley will enforce its new smoking policy on campus. However, the pre-existing policy did not come from the school.

"The Board of Trustees

implemented a rule of no more than four areas for smoking on campuses in the LACCD," said Meredith Leonard, the chair of the work environment committee, who helped develop the initial policy.

Valley is one of the last campuses to put the policy into effect. Currently, students, faculty and the general public receive warning citations from the Sheriff's Station; regardless, the policy is in effect and has been since the beginning of the spring semester.

The new policy reduces the number of smoking locations, none of which are located directly inside the campus.

"Previously, there were 11 designated locations on campus and now, there are four," said

Raul Gonzalez, the vice president of Administrative Services. "The new locations are on the exterior of the campus, away from the buildings as much as possible and practical."

The four locations are located near College Road North, west of the Library and Resource Center; at the southwest corner of Parking Lot D; in the west side of parking Lot L and on the west side of the Engineering Building, adjacent to Parking Lot A.

One discrepancy the new policy includes is the statement that "a student of the college who knowingly violates the rules pertaining to smoking and non-smoking may lose his/her right to remain on the premises."

It also addresses consequenc-

es that members of the public, volunteers and any district employee would face. Valley President Sue Carleo said, "Ignorance is not an excuse. Any time we include information in our catalog or schedule, students are expected to read it."

When asked about the the new policy being implemented, most students did not know the policy very well, if at all. However, many like the idea of the new locations.

"I've noticed that people light up around anywhere," said anthropology major Anthony Ivey. "I hate walking into a crowd of people and being bombarded by a bunch of nicotine smoke."

Some students offered concepts on how to implement the policy and involve the college

population to raise awareness. Ideas suggested include clubs creating colorful posters to place around the campus, having faculty advise their students about the policy and incorporating a notice online through the Valley portal.

To help raise awareness on campus through a college club, talk to an adviser. To learn more about the consequences of smoking on campus outside of the locations listed, contact the Sheriff's Station.

"We're in college," said sociology major Miluchia Sibala. "If [students] don't know about the policy, they should know. It's like your rights. If you don't know about them, you don't deserve them."

ASU ELECTION EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY

This weeks student government election spurred tension between candidates.

JHANELLE RIVERA
CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITERS

As ASU elections came to an end Tuesday, the race for the top two positions was clouded by campaign violations and the use of flirtatious persuasion.

Alexia Johnson, the president of the Sociology Experiment club, teamed with ASU Interclub Committee representative Randdi Misrahi to vie for the positions of president and vice president. Their opponents were ASU secretary Anna Mezhlumyan and Anoush Alexanyan.

To keep the campaign process fair, candidates are required to sign an Election Committee contract. One campaign party faced consequences from the committee Tuesday after violating codes.

A committee member told

the Valley Star that Mezhlumyan, Alexanyan and their campaigners violated Section 7, Letter H of the Election Code by campaigning too closely to the polls.

The contract states, "There will be no campaigning or distributing of campaign materials within 50 feet of polling areas. This area will be designated by the Election Committee prior to elections."

Mezhlumyan, Alexanyan and their campaigners were restricted to the free speech area, located in front of the cafeteria, after campaigning past the blue line established 50 feet from polling areas.

"There shouldn't be any violations," said cultural anthropology major Michael Adamian, who was working the polls Tuesday. "This should be a fair race."

Allegations of using sexuality were leveled against Mezhlumyan and her campaigners by many voters, including Monarch basketball player Christian Boyer, who reported that the candidate and her supporters used flirtatious slogans to obtain votes, suggesting that students should vote for Mezhlumyan

due to her appearance.

"She said, 'vote for me. Just look at me,'" said Boyer. "I cut her off saying I am already voting for someone else."

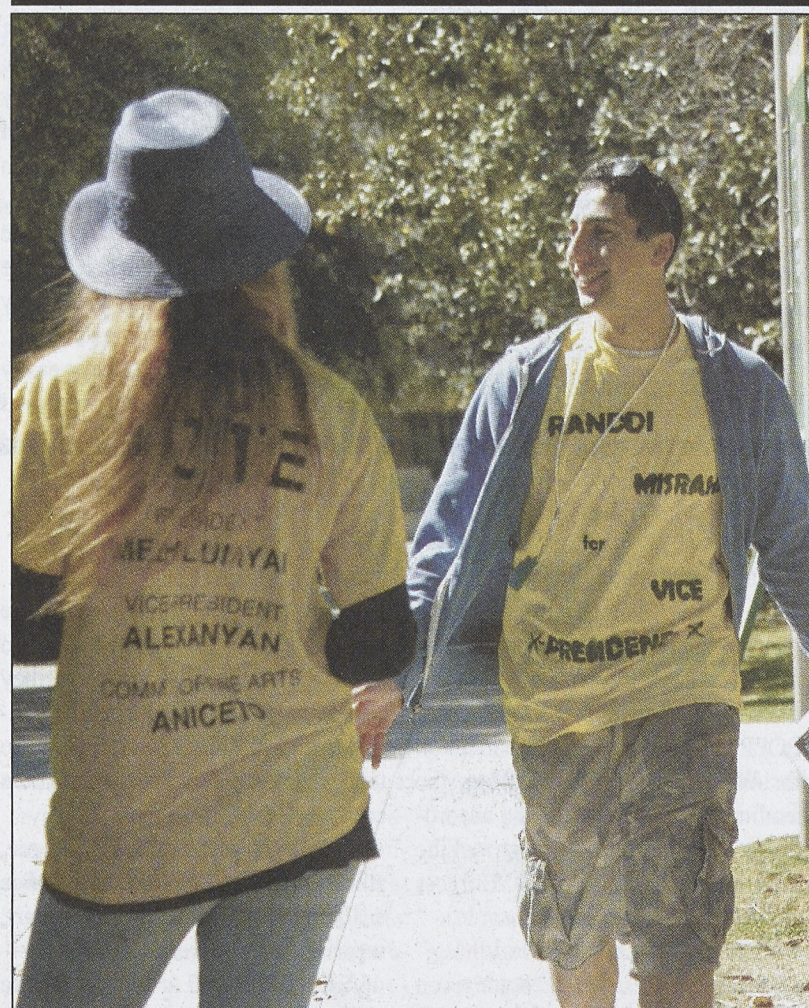
Valley student Denisse Bautista, who was campaigning for Mezhlumyan's opponent Johnson, was bothered by the way the presidential hopeful portrayed herself to get students to lean her way.

"[Monday], she says, 'Do you think I'm sexy? Well, if you think so, vote for me,'" said Bautista, "She said this to a group of guys."

Although three sources reported hearing Mezhlumyan using looks to gain votes, the candidate denies any wrongdoing, insisting neither she nor her campaigners have used such tactics to win votes.

"Why would you say, 'I'm cute, vote for me?'" said Mezhlumyan. "I would never say something like that. It is really shallow to use beauty for votes. My campaigners would not use sexuality to get votes."

The ASU consists of two branches: the Executive Council [See **Election**, Page 2



JAHAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR

CAMPAGNING - Vice president candidate, Randdi Misrahi walks by opposing candidates in Monarch Square on election day.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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VALLEY IS HOST TO FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS DAY

A district wide event helped give Valley College students information on how to apply for financial aid for the upcoming semester.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

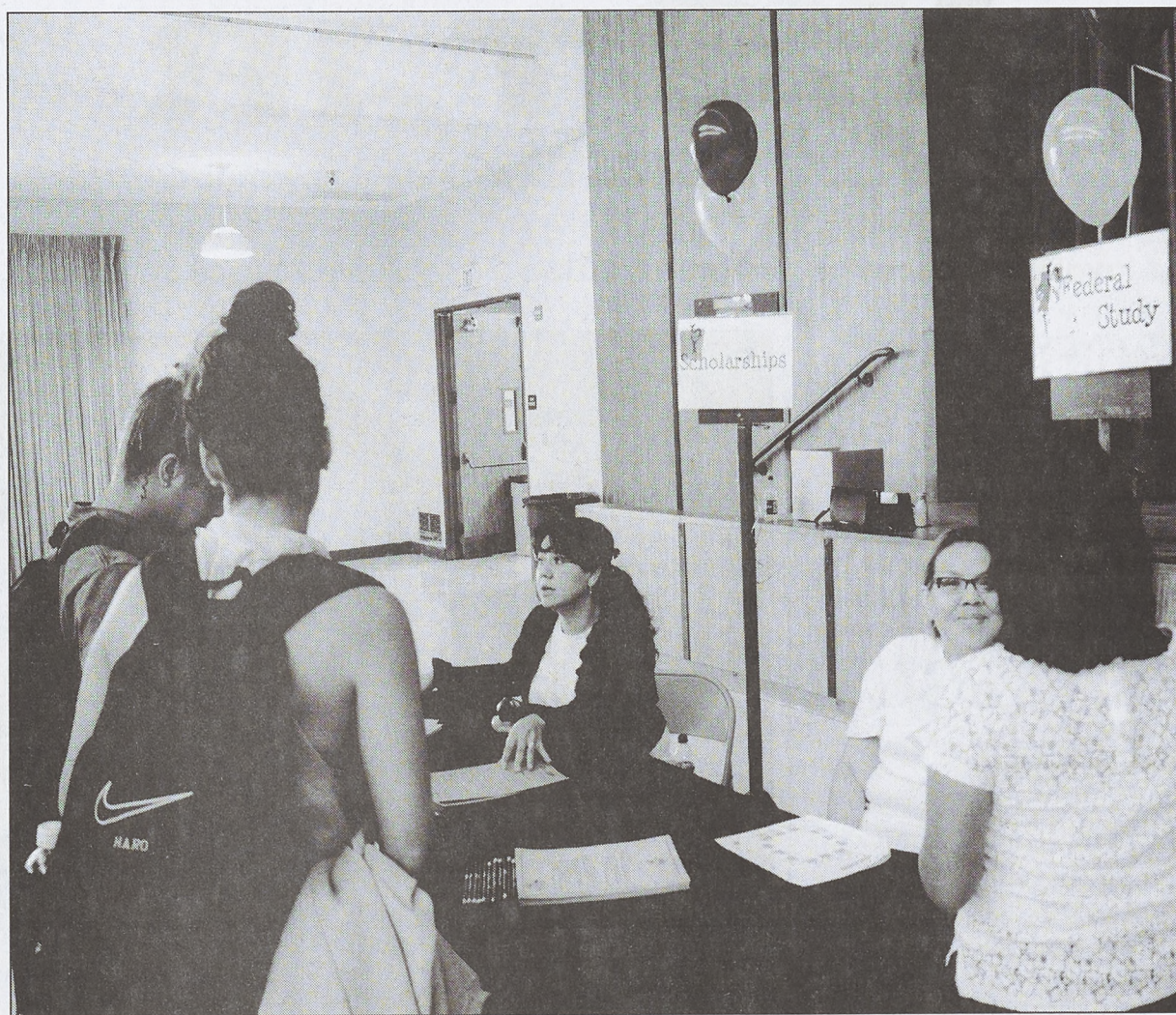
For students who are unsure of how to manage educational costs, the Financial Aid office at Valley College presented a Financial Aid Awareness Day last Wednesday. Students were informed about new programs and how to apply for the 2013–2014 school year.

“We want to make sure we inform all of our students that financial aid is available to all potential students,” said Silvia Diaz, the Financial Aid office supervisor. “We are here trying to encourage them to apply and give them instructions in each particular program.”

Financial Aid Awareness Day was a district-wide event that took place on all nine LACCD campuses. Valley students were informed about how Cal Grants, Pell Grants, scholarships, loans and federal work-study can help them afford college and pay for any other expense.

“We are discussing all the programs that are offered through the Department of Education and the state of California,” said Vernon Bridges, Valley’s Financial Aid manager.

One of the newer programs that Awareness Day provided information about was the California DREAM Act and other financial options for non-resident students



GUIDING THE WAY - Volunteers offering information and guidance to students at last Wednesday’s Financial Aid Awareness Day in Monarch Hall.

or AB540 students. Undocumented students in California who qualify will be able to receive waivers or grant aids in 2013.

“Everything is ready to go in terms of students who are eligible; they should be able to get either a fee waiver or a Cal Grant by the fall,” said Bridges. “[Students] are learning when to apply and what makes them eligible. There is a specific website where they need to go to fill out the application.”

Monarch Hall became a room

full of information for students, giving details on all the different types of grants.

“I learned that there are three different ones: there is the regular financial aid, then there is a Pell Grant and there is a Cal Grant,” said undecided major Heidi Gomez. “I didn’t know that you can apply for all three depending on what you qualify for.”

Regarding students who have still not applied for any financial aid, Bridges said that it is not too

late to apply for the 2012–2013 school year. The deadline to apply for the free application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is June 30.

“I’m going to apply because I know I qualify,” said Gomez. “It would help me not only with school but other expenses, too. It’ll help everything come out a lot easier.”

The Financial Aid office intends to present one more awareness day prior to finals week. For more information on financial aid, visit www.lavc.edu/financialaid.

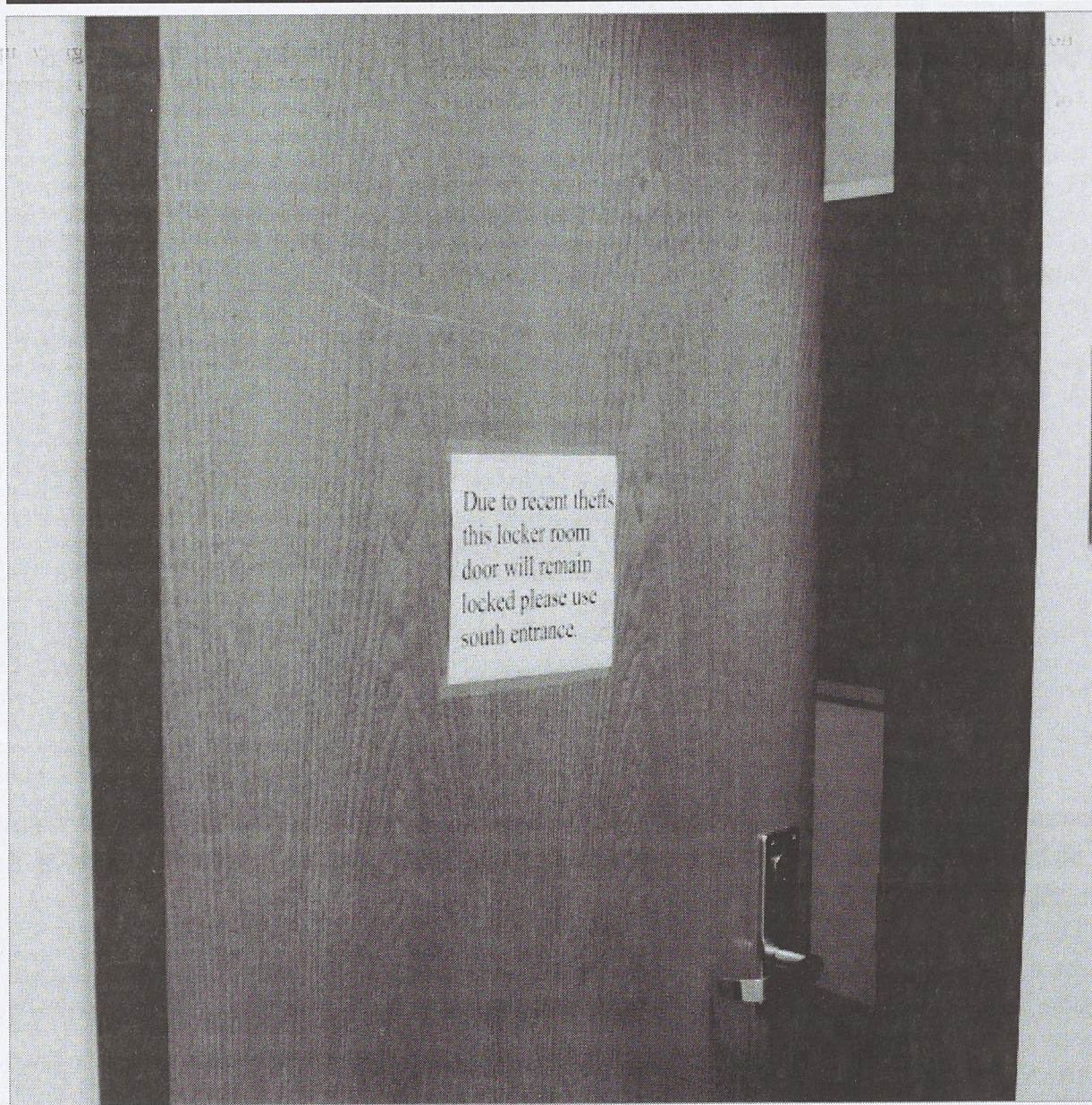
Election

Continued from page 1

and the Interclub Council. The councils serve to create a student-centered environment as well as provide awareness to students, according to the ASU website. When students register for classes, an ASU membership charge of \$10 is included as a way to bring fund-

ing of activities and programs to ensure funding for campus events.

The ASU collected more than 1,000 votes last year, and an election official estimates roughly 500 votes were cast Monday. Ballots will be counted on Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Media Service Lab, open to public.



FAILED ATTEMPT - The interior door of the women’s locker room in the North Gym is propped open with a broom, despite campus security’s effort to prevent theft by posting a sign.

THEFT, BURGLARY RISE ON CAMPUS

Crime at Valley College has risen over the past four years, particularly theft and burglary.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

Late on a Tuesday morning, a dozen backpacks, purses and computer carriers sit leaning against a wall in the South Gym Fitness Center, unattended. In the women’s locker room, a locker door stands ajar unable to close after being broken open and bent in the process. In the North Gym, a sign on one locker room door warns of rampant theft and states the door is to remain shut and locked at all times. It is propped open with the head of a dust mop.

Petty theft is the most common non-violent crime at Valley College, followed by burglary, or theft that involves forcible entry—whether a room, locker or vehicle. It is a persistent problem year after year. And while the occurrence of theft is down this semester versus last, burglary is holding steady.

“In the four years since [I started here], I’ve never seen this much theft,” said Joe Hernandez, a former student and Monarchs baseball team

manager. “I quit using the locker rooms a long time ago.”

Five out of the seven burglaries reported to the Sheriff’s Station last semester occurred in the locker rooms of both the North and South gyms. According to one police report from late September, two female victims lost a total of \$450 after their lockers were forcibly opened. Their wallets were found in a trashcan days later, minus the money.

This type of crime has risen substantially over the past several years. There have already been 10 break-ins reported from various locations on campus this semester compared to six for the entire year of 2011, as stated in the college’s Annual Security Report. There have been no violent crimes to date for this academic year.

“A lot of those thefts would go away if people secured their property,” said Deputy Rick Baker, the team leader of Valley’s Sheriff’s Station. “If you’re leaving your iPhone or cell phone out and it’s unattended, you come back and you wonder why somebody’s taken it? A bunch of book bags sitting around in an open area is not secure.”

As for those favorite targets, the locker rooms, Baker does not have much faith in the locks as evident by the bent doors in the women’s room.

“I think they can be very easily defeated,” he said. “Don’t bring and

put valuables in your locker here. You can secure that stuff in your private vehicle versus leaving it in your locker. And then lock your vehicle. Some of the thefts from vehicles are because items are openly displayed.”

Sometimes, the vehicle itself is the target. There have been three vehicles stolen from school lots already this semester. Baker reminds students to always be aware of their surroundings and leave expensive items at home.

As part of a multi-million-dollar facilities upgrade, there will be more security cameras installed in undisclosed locations throughout the campus in the coming years, although none will be in the gym hallways. It is still up to students and staff to be cognizant of what is happening and who is around them, especially since the Sheriff’s Station is constrained by limited manpower.

There are more than 18,000 students, faculty and staff members at Valley and only 12 Sheriff’s officers, including Baker. Ten cadet officers— young, unarmed trainees, support them.

The level of crime on campus has caused some students, like Hernandez, to become wary of their fellow students. As one student who declined to be identified said, “I don’t really trust people.”

LACCD STUDENTS GIVEN FAST-TRACK TO POLICE ACADEMY

A joint-effort program allows student-recruits to work simultaneously on a degree and admission to the LAPD academy.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

A four-year-old program facilitated by the LACCD, the Los Angeles Police Department and the LAUSD is giving college freshmen and high school seniors a direct path into the LAPD academy.

The Police Orientation

Preparation Program allows students to pursue a two-year degree while receiving career training specific to jobs in law enforcement. The program provides 15 units per semester toward an associate’s degree in administration of justice.

“[We] know how hard it is to get a two-year degree in two years,” said LAPD Sergeant John Amendola, the officer in charge of student training at POPP and an instructor at West Los Angeles College. He liaises with representatives from the LACCD and the LAUSD to run the program.

“The benefit for these particular young ladies and gentlemen is

they will have an associate’s degree exactly in the current technical field they want to enter and we give them specialized courses,” he said. “By the time they enter the academy, they’ve already taken academy-level classes, have finished college course work and are able to go through it without having an attrition problem.”

POPP accepts roughly 50 recruits a year, 15 to 20 of whom are community college freshmen. The rest are high school seniors who are able to overlap their first year of college-level classes with their last year of high school.

All courses are held at the

LAPD’s Ahmanson Recruit Training Center in Westchester, putting recruits in an early immersive police academy environment, which helps them stick to the two-year plan. POPP is an official satellite location for West Los Angeles College, the lead college district campus, according to Jeff Burgess, the director of the program from the LAUSD. Burgess is also an LACCD instructor.

“We take care of everything,” said Amendola. “They don’t even have to think about which courses to take.” That is what separates POPP graduates from students who study administration of justice at the other

campuses.

Ordinarily, a student would be on their own—with advice from counselors—taking courses as they could while waiting to hit age 20-and-a-half, the minimum one must be to take the LAPD academy’s written entrance exam.

Though working on a degree, student-recruits operate in a police academy environment from the start, wearing mandatory uniforms—which are supplied at no cost, as are laptops. For some, the support system and rigid structure make a big difference. Mohammad Komeili, a new LAPD officer and POPP graduate,

found it easier to get through the academy than some of his classmates who did not go through the prep program.

“It’s a winner for the city and of course the kids,” said Amendola, adding that the recruits come from all nine LACCD neighborhoods. “The program is just doing all kinds of good for the community . . . so we’re excited.”

The deadline to apply for the fall 2013 POPP class is the first week of May. A four-week boot camp begins at the beginning of August. For more information, visit <http://poppart.com>.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff or students.

PROPOSED MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE NOT EFFECTIVE ENOUGH

Nearly 50 million Americans are currently living in poverty while the median income drops.

BRITTANY BAGWELL
STAFF WRITER

Economists declared the recession over in 2009, but millions of Americans still wait for relief. The stock market is rebounding and turning record profits again, commercial bank revenues are increasing and GDP continues to see positive growth. At the same time, median incomes have been dropping steadily as more people slip from the middle class to the working poor. Roughly 15 percent of Americans, 46.2 million people, live below the federal poverty line today.

President Barack Obama proposed raising the minimum wage to \$9 to narrow the growing income gap. Even at \$9 an hour, a minimum wage earner with two kids would receive \$18,000 a year—still under the federal poverty line.

California's rental prices are now the second highest in the nation after Hawaii, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual report. The state's fair market rent price for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,341 a month. That means that it takes 3.2 minimum wage earners working year round to afford a fair market-price apartment here. A single minimum-wage earner would have to work 129 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, to afford that same apartment.

Affordable housing costs

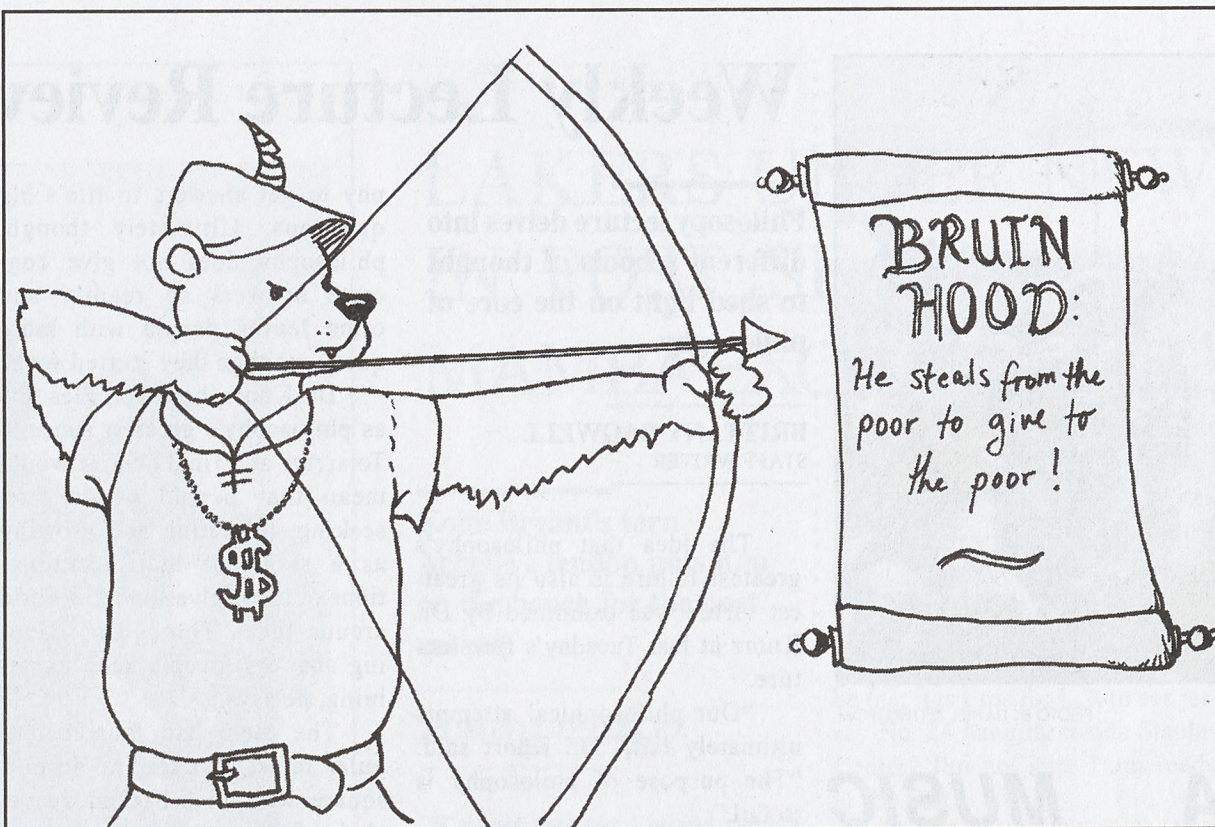
should not exceed more than 30 percent of a person's income. If applied to minimum wage workers in California, then the gap between affordable housing and fair market price for a two-bedroom apartment is \$925 a month.

Republicans such as house speaker John Boehner bellowed his party's mantra of "job killer" when talks about raising the minimum wage to \$9 an hour began. Most retail stores pay their employees the bare minimum set by the government, and many of them say they will be forced to lay off employees and cut hours if the increase is passed.

The fact is that successful retail chains can pay their employees a living wage and still turn a profit. Places like Costco Wholesale and Trader Joe's are low-cost retailers—a sector that traditionally relies on part-time, low-paid employees. Both retailers have found that by valuing their workers as assets to their companies they receive increased sales and productivity.

It is hard to stomach 46.2 million people living in poverty in one of the wealthiest nations on earth. It is especially difficult when it is considered that—according to Harvard University professor Michael Norton and Duke University professor Dan Ariely, who co-authored a study on wealth distribution in America—the top 20 percent of Americans are sitting on 80 percent of the wealth, while the bottom 40 percent have basically zero wealth.

As Warren Buffet, the second richest man in America, once said, "There's class warfare, all right, but it's my class, the rich class, that's making war, and we're winning."



JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

UC SYSTEM SLAMS STUDENTS WITH FEES TO COVER ITS HIDE

Students are forced to pay the damages for illegal fees charged by the UC system.

DEZIREE MILLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Under the most contradictory logic possible, current UC students have been ordered to continue paying a \$60 surcharge—which the entire student body has already been paying since 2007—after the UC system was found guilty of illegal fee increases and required to pay damages to former students who were forced to pay that fee.

Yes, UCs are using current students to generate income to reimburse former students by implementing the same charge that was found unethical to force former students to pay.

The UC system raised fees between 2002 and 2004 although it was stated in writing on websites and pamphlets that students would not face increases before graduation. The UCs were sued on two occasions and ordered to pay damages, which they obtained through the surcharge.

The bleak state of the education budget in California is nothing new. From elementary schools requesting that children supply more of their own materials to increased fees for college tuition, students of all ages are feeling the pinch. While scenarios like these are somewhat understandable, this one instance for UC students is not.

Raquel Morales, president of the UC Student Association, described the surcharges as "unethical and immoral."

The regent's decision is "a warning to all UC students that

if you go against the UC and win, the University of California will punish the students that follow," said Morales. "Students should have the right to advocate for themselves without having the outcomes turn into surcharges for future students in our system."

"I do not think that \$60 a year, as unfair as you may think it is, is probably going to jeopardize anybody's law career," regent Richard Blum told students. "I don't like it, but I don't know what else to do."

While regents can shrug off \$60 at their pay grade, working students living paycheck to paycheck cannot. That is gas money to get to school and work or grocery money to eat. It is not a huge sum, but the reason for it is unfair, and the principle can leave students bitter and disenchanted with the education system. They are paying for their school's "boo boo."

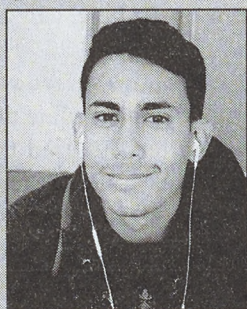
VALLEY VIEW

WHERE ON CAMPUS, IF ANYWHERE, DO YOU THINK SMOKING SHOULD BE ALLOWED?



"Creating a distance between smokers and non-smokers is definitely a good idea."

-BRYAN AYALA,
POLITICAL SCIENCES



"Honestly, I still see people smoking. [It] doesn't seem to be enforced. I don't see the point."

-DARRELL AMAYA,
ECONOMICS



"I personally do not like smoking, but we should have smoking areas."

-DENISSE BAUTISTA,
BIOLOGY



"Students are restricted enough as it is."

-ASHLEY OIKNINE,
MUSIC



"I don't mind the smoke, just as long as it's not in very public areas such as the quad."

-EVAN PIECLE,
EDUCATION

JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR

ADDERALL: IT'S NOT JUST FOR KIDS ANYMORE

Doctors and pharmaceutical companies alike are targeting the young adult market with an easy pathway to legal speed.

BRITTANY BAGWELL
STAFF WRITER

Stimulants have long been used by many a student to buy extra review time prior to an exam. Coffee, energy drinks and cigarettes are all legal stimulants for adults to use and get a short-term energy boost.

Adderall and other amphetamine-based stimulants like it are also legal to use for those with a prescription. Most of these medications are used to treat ADD or ADHD, but there is a growing

number of students who use them to pull all-night cram sessions and still have energy to burn.

It is not just a problem of drug abuse. The larger and more pervasive problem is the targeted marketing approach that drug companies and doctors use to draw people into the stimulant market.

LA Weekly frequently runs an advertisement of a distracted-looking young woman with her arms folded over a large book, pencil in hand, with the words, "Got adult ADD? Think you might? FREE online assessment," followed by a phone number and link to a test. The test on the ad's website has all the answers that will qualify someone for the ADD/ADHD diagnosis, already shaded for the potential patient—the stated reason for this being that if most of the test taker's answers fall in the

shaded boxes, then he or she most likely has adult ADD/ADHD and should go seek immediate medical help for the condition.

This is the standard test for assessing if a person has adult ADD or ADHD. With these correct answers memorized, a person needs only to relay that information to a physician to walk out with a legal, highly addictive substance.

Adderall is not just one kind of amphetamine either; it is a blend of four different kinds of amphetamines. It is big pharma's best blend of legal uppers for the average consumer.

Vyance contains a long-release formula of just a single amphetamine. Occasional advertisements for this medication pop up at the bottom of screens of people surfing fastweb.com, a widely used scholarship-finding website for college students. The

immediate red flag, or green light if the student happens to be looking for a buzz, is the large warning that tells people it has a high risk of abuse or dependence.

The larger and more pervasive problem is the targeted marketing approach that drug companies and doctors use to draw people into the stimulant market.

This growing trend of people using their doctors as their drug dealers is nothing new. Just as opiates like morphine and oxycodone have long been the legal equivalent of heroin, amphetamine salts are the legal drug

cousins of methamphetamines.

People with a doctor's prescription do not face all the same consequences for abusing drugs as people who use illegal substances. When people overdose from illegal drugs, they wake up handcuffed to a hospital bed and await transport to the nearest county jail. Those who overdose on legal drugs they had prescriptions for would wake up in a hospital to a verbal warning to "take their medication as prescribed" and promptly be sent home. Both of them could potentially spend years battling addiction and ruin their lives. The bottom line is, prescription or otherwise, it is not worth the risk.

The larger and more pervasive problem is the targeted marketing approach that drug companies and doctors use to draw people into the stimulant market.

N. KOREA THREATS: ALL BARK, NO BITE

North Korea Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un's nuclear missile claims should fall on deaf ears.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Relax, North Korea is not hell bent on going to war. It is just an attempt for appeasement. It worked for Adolf Hitler, so why not give it a try.

Unfortunately for them, it is not 1938 and this is America, not Britain; this country does not believe in appeasement, and President Barack Obama may be many things, but he is not Neville Chamberlain. Americans will not see him fly to Pyongyang, give the North Koreans what they want and then fly back and claim peace for our time.

Simply put, no matter how much Kim Jong-un, the supreme leader of North Korea—and owner of possibly the worst haircut ever—talks about starting a war with America, he cannot deliver because of China.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said, "We do not want to see chaos and conflict on China's doorstep."

So, do not be surprised if China puts a leash on North Korea before we do because of the effects on their economy.

China has grown tired of having to watch out for its baby brother that will not grow up, especially now that it is threatened with having a war at its doorstep, which would be disastrous for the Chinese economy. Also, a North Korea loss would place an American-backed united Korea at its border. It has already stopped tours into North Korea, and being the major supplier of, well, everything, has a lot of pull over the isolated nation.

China has grown tired of cleaning up North Korea's mess and recently Chinese President Xi Jinping was quoted as saying, "No one should be allowed to throw a region and even the whole world into chaos for selfish gain."

But Kim Jong-un, like Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is just bark, no bite. Both men started anti-American propagandist campaigns of nonsense after sanctions were handed down on them. The sanctions, or any measure that China approved, would stop the sale of luxury items to the North Korea ruling elite. China can neither afford to lose North Korea as a buffer, nor will the country let its way of life be put into jeopardy by some kid dressed like a Bond villain.

So, while Kim Jong-un rants and raves and tests missiles and creates a commotion like a toddler, sit down, enjoy a beer and watch the Lakers game. North Korea is not going to do anything.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to editorinchief@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com.

Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.



PHOTO BY DANIEL ZETTERSTROM

COACHELLA MUSIC FESTIVAL AS TOLD BY ONE VALLEY STUDENT

The largely publicized festival proves its worth to attendants seeking an unforgettable experience.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITER

Ticketholders on break from their lives at school and in office cubicles head into dense traffic on the I-10, some emblazoning their cars with “car-poolchella,” all leading to Indio, Calif., also known as the magical world of the Coachella Music and Arts Festival.

Located in the middle of the Coachella Valley desert, the festival is a place where more than 100,000 music lovers come together for a weekend of a lifetime. Many are returning festival-goers who have been waiting all year for this.

Attendees wait in the beaming sun with their wristbands tied tightly on their wrists in their finest hippie-style clothes as the crowd starts chanting to get through the gates. “Let us in! Let us in!” screams the crowd in unison. Coachella seems slightly understaffed as the line grows longer and closer together on the first day of the festival. Girls in flower headbands complain about the heat; others complain about the fact that they pay more than \$300 to be stuck in an unmoving line.

I am among the hundreds of people trying to get in. As a Coachella first-timer, I was still optimistic about the heat and long lines. It is part of the experience, I convinced myself, considering I had already waited in a five-hour line of traffic getting to our campsite.

The festival showcases a mix of established musical artists, emerging artists and reuniting artists from genres of rock, indie, hip hop and electronic music. Artists vary from Wu-Tang Clan to The Lumineers to Bassnectar to Social Distortion. The six different stages, known as Mojave, Gobi, Sahara, Yuma, Outdoor and Main, house musicians from all different paths doing one thing: making fans happy.

Temperatures reach around 98 degrees, which while quite low from past festival records, still makes sunscreen and shade a necessity. During a break between hopping from Of Monsters and Men to Passion Pit, I stop by one of the beer gardens to cool down. People sip on their margaritas and cold Heinekens and refuel with the many food truck options, just looking for an inch of shade to savor before heading to another show.

At sunset, the real Coachella began. The weather was perfect—

there was a slight breeze—and from 5 p.m. to about 1:30 a.m., you scurry around trying to fit in every band you possibly want to see. I jumped from Beach House to Band of Horses to Purity Ring to Jurassic 5 and finally ended with Tegan and Sara. The cost of the ticket already seems worth it from your first day.

The crowd comes alive at Coachella unlike anything else. People are in their own paradise, singing along to each lyric and dancing to the beat of the music. A whole new alleyway is discovered in the mind after hearing a lyric sang for the first time. It is pure bliss.

On the morning after, collected moments from the night before remain, refusing you to snuff the dusty storms, long walks back to campsites, hotels or houses for the weekend or the lack of sleep.

The second day, you do it all over again, perhaps checking out some of the unique Coachella art from the T-rex made out of recyclables or the giant colorful snail that moves throughout the park. Or going to the Do Lab stocked with misters around the dance floor, where DJ’s are playing different electronic songs to dance to while dancers on stage drench you with hoses and super soakers to keep cool.

When the nights end, hotels are throwing parties, campers are staying up into the late hours talking and playing games, and then there is the silent dance party. It is located in a huge dome covered with colored balloons. You are handed a pair of headphones playing the same music as everyone else and dance the night away.

Dancers formed circles to show off moves and hellos are simply said by a head nod or smile. The party lasts until sunrise.

Sunday marks the last day of the festival. A sad day for most, who are wishing not to go back to their normal lives of busy schedules and responsibilities. Ticketholders take in the last of the bands, take their group photos to remember the good time they had and wait for next year’s festival. As a sweet goodbye, the Red Hot Chili Peppers rocked the stage, singing their classics like “Californication” and “Scar Tissue,” leaving you with the feeling of contentment.

Sore, sun burnt, exhausted, sleep deprived and above all, euphoric. These are the range of feelings you are left with after a long weekend of walking, dancing, high temperatures and little sleep. Yet, this was one of the greatest weekends of my life.

E-mail Claire Brisley at c.brisley@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com

Weekly Lecture Reviews Philosophy’s Purpose

Philosophy lecture delves into different schools of thought to shed light on the core of philosophy.

BRITTANY BAGWELL
STAFF WRITER

The idea that philosophy’s greatest failure is also its greatest virtue was examined by Dr. Knorr at last Tuesday’s free lecture.

“Our philosophical attempts ultimately fail,” Dr. Knorr said. “The purpose of philosophy is to fail.”

Most people explore philoso-

phy to get answers to life’s big questions. Ultimately though, philosophy does not give concrete answers so readily and often leaves people with more questions than they started with.

Dr. Knorr, however, sees this as philosophy’s greatest success. To arrive at a final answer would mean that people would stop seeking, reflecting and growing as a result of their examinations of themselves and the world around them. Through not finding answers, people keep examining, he says.

The room had four rectangular tables arranged to form a square with high-backed swivel chairs for listeners to recline in.

Behind Dr. Knorr was a whiteboard that he would periodically use to illustrate his points.

Philosophy is about dialogue, a continuous process of discovering who we are, according to Knorr.

“The unexamined life is not worth living,” Socrates once said. The lecture followed that same vein of thought.

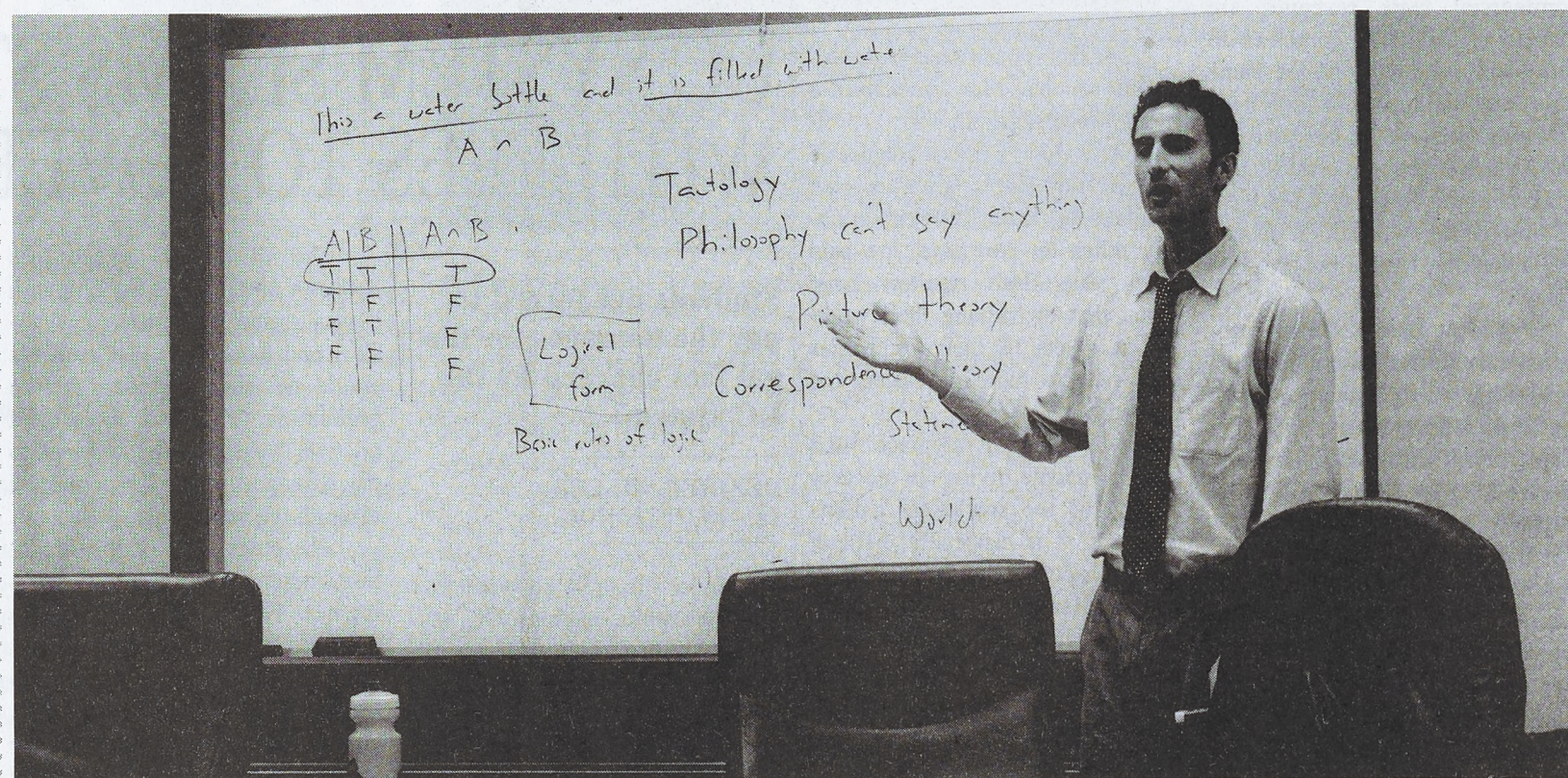
Dr. Knorr used examples from two very different philosophers to arrive at a common conclusion about the nature of philosophy. He passed out a sheet with three quotes: one from Plato and his work Theaetetus, and two from Wittgenstein’s work Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus.

Context, analysis and interpretation of the quotes gave the listeners an introduction to both Plato’s and Wittgenstein’s schools of thought and the similar conclusions that can be drawn from them.

Natasha Taylor, a philosophy major who engaged in a number of topics up for discussion, never misses one of these free lectures.

“I come to all of them,” she said. “For the hell of it.”

From deep thinkers to the curious at heart, these Tuesday night philosophical discussions are open to everyone. View the entire schedule at http://www.lavc.edu/flyers/Philosophy_Lecture_Series_Flyer_SP13.pdf



JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR

TEACH IT - Professor Zack Knorr teaching Socrates, Wittgenstein, and the care of the soul on Tuesday April 9, 2013 in the Campus Center building.

LEARN TO COOL OFF AT PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES ANGER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Students take in ways to fight for their calm and keep rage away

ALTON PITRE
STAFF WRITER

Anger is a natural element expressed by humans, but if it is not coped with in the proper fashion, it can be detrimental. Valley College’s

Psychological Services conducted a free “Anger Management” workshop for students in the Cafeteria Conference Room. Damien Tilliman, an intern of the psychological services at Valley, acquainted students with vital information and techniques on how to manage their anger and how to deal with others.

“We live in a culture where emotions are considered bad sometimes,” said Tilliman.

“The majority of our anger, it is because we feel shame, that’s the primary reason. It comes a lot from not taking care of ourselves.”

Essential tips shared with students on how to regulate and care for this matter fluttered the conference room. Self-awareness—asking questions inwardly, such as, “Why am I angry? Where did this anger come from? How do I act when I’m angry?”—is the first step, according to Tilliman.

Once becoming familiarized with these questions and answers, one has to decide on how to avoid or de-escalate situations where anger can be triggered, he said. After that is settled, find ways to release this anger—such as talking with a friend or writing in a journal.

Physical activity is a good way to vent this emotion, according to the Tilliman. Physical actions such as exercise, running around the block, engaging in sports, or even hitting a pillow—not a person—will usually work.

Natural Science major Cynthia Velezquez said her anger is usually derived from disrespect from another person. She manages her anger with sarcasm.

“I’ll be very sarcastic with a person,” she said. “If I’m not, I’ll try to ignore them or I will just snap.”

Velezquez found this session to be very helpful. She says she will use the self-awareness and self-talk mechanism going forward to help handle her anger.

“It’s nice to be able to help students in some way knowing that we all have problems,” said Tilliman.

He also knows that students probably will not remember all of these tips when confronted with anger in the future, but he said he will be fine if just one or two of these steps gets through to students.

“You have to focus on what’s best for you,” he said.

The psychology department holds different workshops every month. For more information, check the calendar of events on Valley College’s website at <http://www.lavc.edu/calendar/index.html>



WALEED RAHMAN | VALLEY STAR

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES - Christian Nova, baritone, singing his best along to Frank Garvey’s, piano, melody at Valley College’s 7th free Wednesday concert on April 10, 2013

RECORD BREAKING



ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR
TIME - Chris Cordobes, Chad Wilson, Zakary Zukoski, Robert Cordobes and Jack Acampora of the men's 400-meter relay team broke a record Friday that set in 1978 with the new time of 3:13.22 while competing at the Western State Conference Dual Meet at Valley College.

THINK IT THROUGH

LAKERS UNDER NEW GUIDANCE IN POST SEASON AFTER BLACK MAMBA EXCEEDS LIFE EXPECTANCY

**Kobe Bryant's torn
Achelle's tendon puts him
on the bench for the post
season.**

ROMEO GONZALEZ

I never thought I would see the day. The day when cloudy, gloomy skies in Los Angeles defined how the whole city felt after finding out Kobe Bryant would be out for the next six to nine months.

"Kobe is like a director out there, which is something I've always tried to do," said Steve Blake to the Los Angeles Times. "Handling the ball more is more of my comfort level."

It was in last Saturday's game, just under four minutes left to play against Golden State when Bryant made his move to the basket and collapsed taking the entire city with him.

A torn Achilles tendon was the news a couple hours later. Kobe Bryant is done, but only for the rest of the season. Well at least that is what Angelinos like myself are hoping for.

The average life expectancy

for a black mamba is 12 years and Bryant has already exceeded that, and he no longer strikes like he did in past years.

Could it be that it is time for the retirement ceremony? Could it be that it is time for L.A. to see jersey No. 24 hanging inside Staples Center? I'm not sure I am ready to see that.

Players come and go, and all signs point to Bryant being a goner. No athlete as ancient as he is comes back from a torn Achilles tendon.

Make no mistake, Bryant has been counted out many times before with a list of injuries I can't count using both hands. The black mamba has proven everyone wrong and come back striking his venom on his opponents.

Sports analysts and doctors do not expect Bryant to have any bite on his attack if he comes back, but that's just the professionals talking. For the rest of us fans we expect to see Bryant back in October, maybe not knocking down one-legged jumpers from 30 feet away, but showing us how he's improved his game in other aspects.

"Even if you take Kobe out of the game, there's a lot of times he just gets up and puts himself

back in the game," said Mitch Kupchak to the L.A. Times. "So just because you say you're out of the game, doesn't mean he'll come out of the game or stay out of the game."

The Lakers have now become Dwight Howard's team.

Things have changed. Who needs someone shooting a last second jumper with two defenders in his face as he's going out of bounds? No, now Howard and the gang will determine the outcome of the game from the free-throw line.

"We're going to fight to the end," said Dwight Howard to the L.A. Times. "We have a chance to win, go to the playoffs, and make history."

Look how the guys came together to defeat a mediocre Spurs team last Sunday. After all, we still have a team full of "Stars" and playing Oklahoma in the first round of the Western Conference Playoffs should be no problem.

Email Romeo Gonzalez at editorinchief@lavalleystar.com
 Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com

MONARCHS WELCOME NEW WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH

**San Fernando Valley native
Greg Venger is the new
head coach for the lady
Monarchs soccer team.**

JENNA BUMGARDNER
ONLINE EDITOR

Coach Greg Venger has worked at Valley College for two weeks, but he is already sporting a green Monarchs sweatshirt and holding a ring full of nearly 20 identical keys to various doors on campus.

Venger is replacing Shane Watkins as the women's soccer coach, but his mid-semester hire happened late in the game.

"We're recruiting as hard as we can right now," says Venger, "but we got hired late. It's a lot more challenging than it was for other schools that

have their coaches in place [because they] got the 'in' on a lot of players."

Venger comes to Valley with more than 12 years of coaching experience and a master's degree from National University. He got his start at Taft High School, where he also graduated from, coaching men's soccer in 2001, and then made the switch to women's soccer.

"Making the transition to girls, and the group of girls I had when I first started, just made me fall in love with the sport," Venger said.

After Taft, Venger moved on to coach soccer, as well as baseball, at Cleveland High School in 2007. He resigned from Cleveland this year after being offered the opportunity to coach at Valley.

"When you have three or five different coaching jobs, you just can't commit to what you're doing," said Venger. "The idea is to commit to this and turn this program into some-

thing special in the Western State Conference."

In addition to hiring Venger, the athletic department also hired two assistant coaches: Jose Leon and Alex Harrison.

"The games start in August," said Leon. "I'm excited about this, very excited."

Venger is optimistic about the upcoming season. On Monday, the women's soccer team had its first practice in a windy Monarch Stadium. Thirteen women showed up, some returning from last season and some joining for the first time.

"There's a lot of talent out there, for sure," said Venger. "It's time for this program to turn the corner."

Soccer practice is held Mondays and Wednesdays at 3 p.m. on the Monarch Stadium field. Students interested in playing on the soccer team can visit www.lavc.edu/Athletics/soccer/index.htm.



ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR
SAME TEAM NEW COACH - New Lady Monarchs soccer head coach, Greg Venger.

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VALLEY COLLEGE CELEBRATES CLUB DAY

JAHSAUDI PERKINS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Valley College students came together in Monarch Square this past Wednesday for Club Day in which various campus clubs rally to get students to join them. The event, held the third Wednesday of each month, allows clubs to set up tables and gives them the freedom to express their views and recruit students.

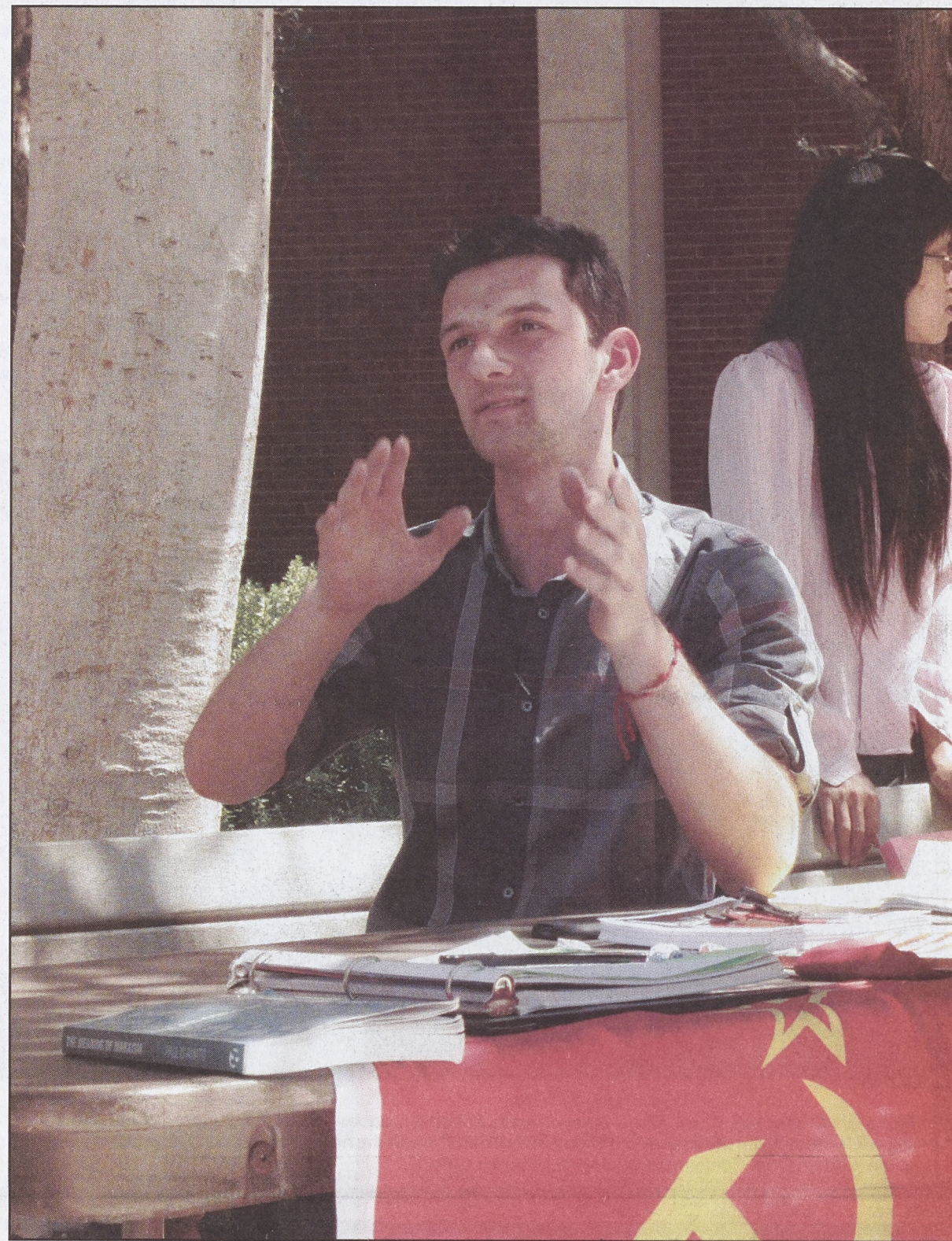
With about eight or nine clubs set up in front of Campus Center, students were presented with a wide range of topic-specific clubs such as the feminist club, the socialists club, the Valley Collegiate Players club and the Eco Advocates club.

Many of the clubs incorporated games and competitions to entice and entertain students. The Eco Advocates club organized a game of "trashketball" in which students threw rolled up balls of paper in to a recycling bin to win candy prizes, and the French club set up water bottles in a bowling-pin formation and invited students to throw bean-filled sacks to knock them down to win snacks.

Fundraising was also prevalent at the event. The VCP club sold snacks and drinks with all proceeds benefitting the club.

"We use it for the theater building to put on shows and for props," said Veronica Vasquez, president of the VCP.

Last week's Club Day coincided with the run-up to the Associated Student Union elections, which were held Monday and Tuesday of this week. The event was immediately followed by the ASU elections forum in Monarch Square in which candidates appealed to students for their votes. All of the clubs endorsed candidate Alexia Johnson for ASU president. Johnson is currently the Sociology Experiment club president, and each table handed out fliers in support of their fellow club official.

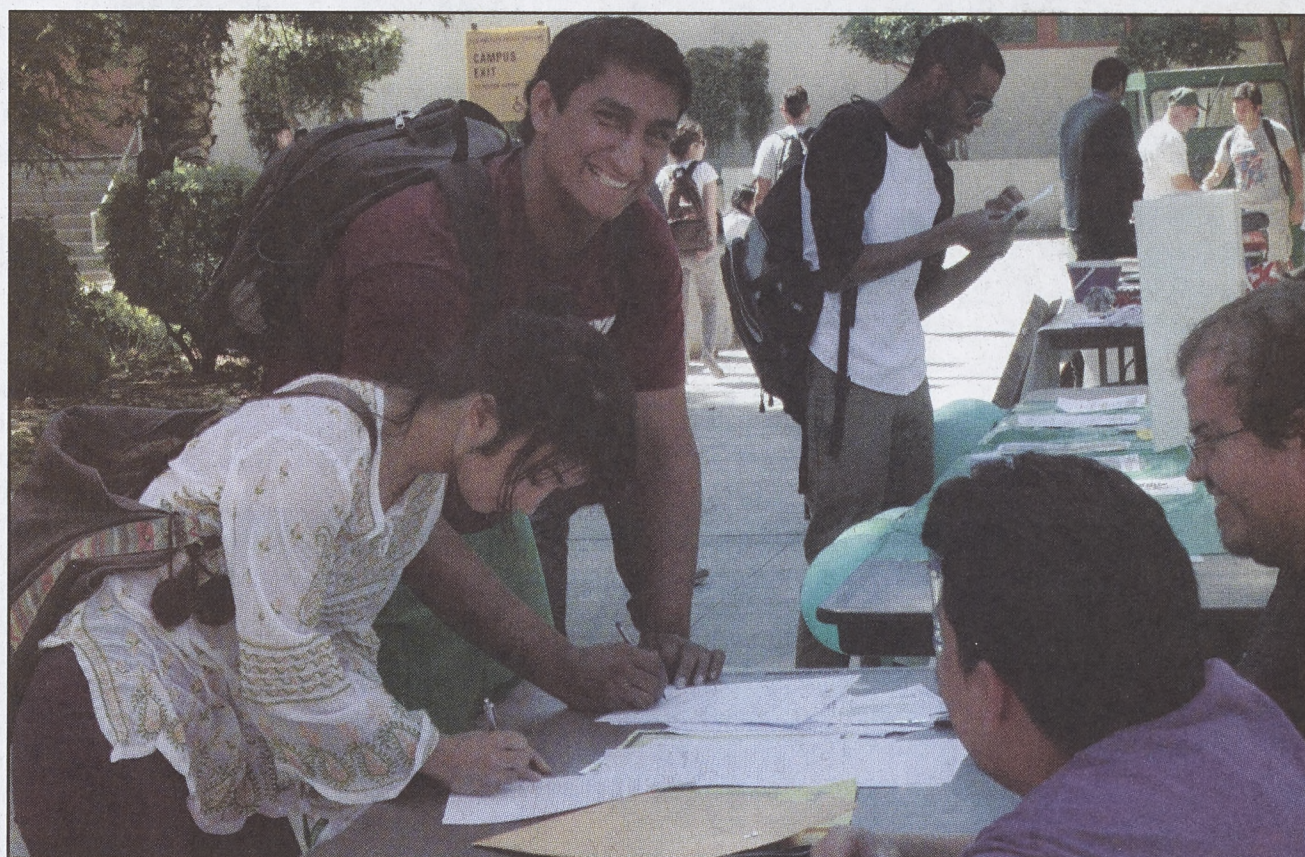


SOCIALIZING - Albert Sarian talks with fellow students to enlighten them about the Socialists club.



ALL NET - Tim Knappen plays a game of "trashketball" to win prizes.

JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR



JOHN HANCOCK - Sami Sandhu signs a petition for proposition 1522, which would mandate California to tax oil companies to fund education.

JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR



TRANSFER - Some universities take Club Day as an opportunity to recruit.

JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR



STRIKE - A Student attempts to knock down all of the of the water bottles to win candy and other treats.

JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR